(c) the details of the capital invested, separately, on communication services and communication industry (manufacturing) out of the said investment; and

(d) the turnover of these sectors in the first nine months of the year 2002-03 and the assessment with regard to the profit earned by each sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The total foreign capital invested in this sector till the end of year 2002 is Rs. 9562 crores out of which Rs. 7983.70 crores have been invested in communication services including investment companies set up for making investment in telecom services sector and Rs. 1578.4 crores in manufacturing and consultancy sector.

(d) The details of turnover of these sectors are not maintained centrally.

Cellular Handset Manufacturing Unit

1578. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite proliferation of cellular phone services in the country not a single domestic or multinational company has come forward with the proposal for setting up of cellular handset manufacturing unit in the country and subscribers are still being provided with expensive imported handsets;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) what action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) Telecom equipment manufacturing sector, including cellular handset manufacturing has been delicensed and therefore, these is no restriction to the manufacture of such items. The government has already given a number of incentives to encourage manufacture of cellular handsets locally which include import

of parts, component and accessories of mobile handsets including cellular phones at zero custom duty. As this is a delicensed sector, market forces and economy of scale will decide local cellular handset manufacturing.

Investment in this area is governed by the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy the government. 100% FDI is allowed in the telecom equipment manufacturing sector under automatic route.

Community Information Centres

1579. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed the progress made in setting up of Community Information Centres in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the target fixed in this regard has been achieved;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps proposed to achieve the target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI S.U. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) to (e) The Department of Information Technology has implemented a project for setting up of 487 Community Information Centres (CICs) at Block Headquarters in the seven North-East States and Sikkim using Information Technology to accelerate socio-economic development of the region.

This project does not envisage setting up of CISs in other parts of the country.

Virus wrecked havoc on Internet

1580. PROF. N. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the virus wrecked havoc on the Internet in India in the fag end of January, 2003;

(b) the efforts taken so far by his Ministry to avert such incidents in future; and